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## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Hawaiian Birds in the Crater of Kilauea.**—While spending some days at the Volcano House last October making a survey and sketch model of Hawaii's famous volcano, *Kilauea*, for the Bishop Museum, I was much interested to find that certain of the Hawaiian birds were utterly disregarding the power of nature and the presence of man and were to be found here in the very home of Madam Pele, the goddess of volcanoes. On the north side of the crater are a number of fault blocks of great size which descend step-like one after another, forming an easy descent to the floor of the crater. All of this locality is more or less thickly wooded chiefly with native Ohea. It was in this quiet retreat that the birds had taken up their abode. I noted during my stay the following species, all inside the crater proper. *Phaethon lepturus* was seen a number of times; on one occasion circling about over the pit of Halemaumau, where eight hundred feet below it was the burning lake of liquid lava. *Buteo solitarius* was seen on two occasions, and *Chasiempis sandvicensis*, *Acridotheres tristis* (introduced), *Vestiaria coccinea*, *Himatione sanguinea*, *Chlorodrepanis virens*, *Oreomystis mana*, and *Phaornis obscura* were all seen on more than one occasion.—WM. ALANSON BRYAN, Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H. I.

**Curious Trait of Thick-billed Sparrow.**—Many years ago I took a nest and four fresh eggs of the thick-billed sparrow (*Passerella iliaca megarhyncha*) from a bush of *Ceanothus cordulatus* and secreted it in a sparse growth of "mountain misery" (*Chamæbatia foliolosa*) forty or fifty feet from where I had found it. In an hour or two I returned for the nest which I found, but the eggs were gone. I happened to see one of them two or three feet from the nest in a line with its former site, and following that line I found them all. One was directly under the place from which I had taken it, one was nearly there, and the other was not more than twenty feet from it. I inferred that the parent birds had rolled them on the ground, which they could easily have done, as the course was free from any great obstacles, and was gradually descending.—LYMAN BELDING.

**Dendroica auduboni a Raisin Eater.**—I have found a new trait in the Audubon warbler which may be of interest to CONDOR readers, namely, *a taste for sweets*. There is a large amount of raisins on the trays stacked up in the tray shed of the packing house here and for several days they have been a great attraction to the birds, so much so that it has been necessary to keep a man constantly in attendance to shoot them and drive them away. The other morning I saw a flock of fully 200 birds—mostly Audubon warblers—around the shed and they seemed to go wild over the fruit, and as fast as they were driven from one side of the shed would fly round to the other. Every bird shot that I examined had the bill sticky for its whole length. The amount of damage done was considerable. Among the birds that had been killed I found one Arkansas kingbird, several bluebirds and house-finches, but the warblers were at the rate of about five to one of the other species. I do not know if this is a common trait of the Audubon warbler elsewhere, but it is certainly new to me.—C. S. SHARP, Escondido, Cal.

**Concerning Spotted Eggs of the Lark Bunting.**—I have had some inquiry lately for "eggs of the lark bunting which are marked" and I would state: that from my register I find I am responsible for 47 sets and in the lot there has been *but two sets* of spotted eggs. The marks are not many, nor very large, but sufficient to make a pretty effect. They are of a reddish brown and mostly about the larger end of the egg. Some eggs have a few spots scattered from end to end. There is also the "under markings" and a few wavy lines of color, "blackbird style." The spots *will not smear* while cleaning the egg, and at this late date they *cannot* be scrubbed off with warm water and soap. One of these sets I am keeping from the sunlight in my cabinet, and the other is safe in the case of J. H. Flanagan, Providence, R. I. I have had *many* eggs of the lark bunting and mountain bluebird, which could not be distinguished from each other.—FRED M. DILLE, Longmont, Colo.

**The Wood Ibis Near San Bernardino.**—One afternoon in the early summer of 1891, a friend and myself came upon a flock of eight wood ibises (*Tantalus loculator*) feeding in a damp field about midway between San Bernardino and Highland. They flew away at our approach and disappeared toward the northwest.

On June 5, 1902, Mr. Stanley Whitlock and I saw three *Tantalus loculator* flying about in this same locality. We shot one for identification. Thence for about a month they became very numerous here, as many as twenty-two being seen in a single flock. They fed mostly in the creek bottoms, and occasionally a flock would be seen circling high in the air for a half-hour at the time. With the coming of July they gradually disappeared. These are the only wood ibises I have ever seen here, although I have lived here for many years.—J. B. FEUDGE, Highland, Cal.

**Note on *Loxioides bailleui* Oust. from Hawaii.**—Through the courtesy of my friend, Professor Loyer H. Miller, of Oahu College, this city, I have had the pleasure of examining a series of seven splendid skins of *Loxioides bailleui* Oust. which were made by him on a trip to the island of Hawaii. The seven specimens were all taken December 26, 1902, at an elevation ranging from seven to eight thousand feet, in the locality known as "Horner's Ranch" near Paauila in the district of Hamakua. In comparing the specimens with the three in the Bishop Museum, I find no material variation in either size or coloration; however, in referring the measurements given in the Key to the Hawaiian Birds, I find a slight discrepancy in the length of the bird there given (7.50) and that obtained by Mr. Miller in freshly killed specimens. I append a table giving the measurements taken from the ten birds before me.

Nos.	Sex	Locality	Date	Collector	Length	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Cul.	Depth	Remarks
											of Bill
1	♀	Hamakua	Dec. 26, '02	L. H. Miller	6.85	3.65	2.30	.97	.48	.46	
2	♂	"	"	"	7.00	3.65	2.60	.94	.48	.43	
3	♂	"	"	"	7.00	3.70	2.60	.95	.47	.45	
4	♀	"	"	"	6.90	3.50	2.55	.95	.47	.42	
5	♂	"	"	"	6.90	3.60	2.50	.96	.48	.47	
6	♂	"	"	"	6.90	3.60	2.55	.94	.49	.45	
7	♂	"	"	"	6.90	3.55	2.50	.96	.47	.45	
B. M. 25	—	Hilo	—	Mills	6.90?	3.55	2.48	.95	.49	.43	Mtd.
" 200	♂	Kona	—	Perkins	6.90?	3.55	2.45	.95	.48	.47	"
" 251	♂	"	—	"	6.90?	3.65	2.52	.95	.49	.45	"

Nos. 1, 4, 6, of Mr. Miller's collection show the darker bases to the feathers on the crown characteristic of the female. However No. 6 has been sexed by Mr. Miller as a male, a fact which would suggest that the young males pass through a stage resembling the adult females. The series as a whole are remarkably uniform in coloring. No. 5 being a fine old male was decidedly the richest gamboge yellow on the head and breast, while No. 4, a female, was slightly more buffy on the crissum than any of the other specimens examined, a fact probably indicating the maturity of the specimen.

Mr. Miller's observations of the habits of this species tally exactly with those of former observers who have all found it feeding on the Mamani bushes, rarely leaving them, and showing but little fear. He describes its note as a clear whistle. The peculiar odor characteristic of the *Drepanididae* was especially noticeable on the fresh skins.—WM. ALANSON BRYAN, *Bishop Museum, Honolulu, H. I.*

***Ardea virescens anthonyi*.**—On January 3, 1903, while nearing a creek in the vicinity of San Bernardino to get a drink, I startled a large bird from the trees overhead. After much care I approached near enough to see that it was an Anthony green heron (*Ardea virescens anthonyi*). As I had no gun I was unable to secure it. Is it not a rare thing to find this bird in Southern California at this time of the year?—J. B. FEUDGE, *Highland, Cal.*

**The Alaska Pileolated Warbler in California.**—In Part II of his "Birds of North and Middle America," Mr. Ridgway newly describes the race of *Wilsonia pusilla* from the West Coast. The three forms recognized by him are: (1) *Wilsonia pusilla pusilla* (Wilson) from the Atlantic province; (2) *Wilsonia pusilla pileolata* (Pallas) occupying the middle province including the whole of Alaska and British Columbia to the Pacific, together with the Rocky Mountain region; (3) *Wilsonia pusilla chryseola* Ridgway, the form summering in the Pacific province from southern California to western Washington.

A study of available material in the collections of Mr. F. S. Daggett and myself, amounting to some seventy-five skins in all, results in that Mr. Ridgway's conclusions are fully confirmed. The great majority of our Californian specimens are uniformly typical of *chryseola*, but we were much interested to find that *pileolata* is also represented. The five specimens secured by me May 14-16, 1897, on Santa Barbara Island and recorded as *Sylvania pusilla pileolata* (Rep. Bds. Sta. Barbara Jds., Aug. 1897, p. 8) are all referable to *pileolata* as now restricted. So are also in Mr. Daggett's series No. 667 ♂, Apr. 29, '97; No. 4796 ♀, May 1, '96; and No. 4761 ♀, Sept. 22, '96, all taken at Pasadena. These indicate that the Alaskan race passes in migration along the coast of California with probable regularity, though appearing in the spring long after *chryseola* has become settled for the summer.

*W. p. pileolata* is recognizable at a glance by its dark green upper parts and pale yellow face. Also its long (2.21 in.=56 min.) pointed (8-7-6-9-5, etc.) wing is an evidence of extended migration. *W. p. chryseola* has the upper parts of a much yellower green, approaching a dark wax yellow, while the face and lower surface are strongly tinged with orange yellow, sometimes near-

ly cadmium yellow on the forehead. The wing is shorter (2.15 in. = 54.5 mm.) and rounded (7-6-8-9-5, etc.), indicating a more sedentary bird. Parallel cases are afforded by the yellow warblers, savanna sparrows, fox sparrows, and other birds breeding through many degrees of latitude along the Pacific Coast.—JOSEPH GRINNELL.

**Sterna hirundo at San Francisco.**—It is with great pleasure that I am enabled to add one more to our already long list of Pacific Coast birds. On January 19, 1903, my friend Mr. Ernest Werder while roaming over the hills at the Presidio, San Francisco, found what was to him a strange bird and wishing to know what it was forwarded it to me. I have identified it as the common tern, *Sterna hirundo*. This is so far as I am aware the first record from the coast. The bird when taken was alive, but in a very emaciated condition and died shortly after being found. It was probably hurled to the earth while in a weakened condition by the severe storms which occurred about that time.—C. LITTLEJOHN, *Redwood City, Cal.*

**A Few Notes from Texas.**—During the last few years I have had the pleasure of finding many curious nesting places of some of the smaller birds of this section of the state, a few of which I will here recall. In the spring of '97 while collecting in Caldwell county, I found a nest of the Baltimore oriole, placed about fifteen feet above the ground, tightly woven in the leaves of a mesquite and built entirely of horse-hair. While I was sitting under the tree resting a male Baird wren flew out of the nest and at once began pouring forth his notes of distress and probably wanted to know who was invading his domain. I had not the least idea of the wren having a nest in the old oriole's nest, but my inquisitiveness forced me to inspect, so I immediately ascended and to my great surprise I found it to contain a large well built nest of the Baird wren and five eggs. It is not of uncommon occurrence to find the nests of this wren in tin cans and old buckets and in several instances it has been found nesting in the pockets of old garments that had been placed in the barn and outhouses.

Mr. Harry J. Kofahl has taken the eggs of the scissor-tailed flycatcher (*Milvulus forficatus*) from the light towers in the city of Austin and I have also found this species nesting on telephone poles.

On the 20th of June 1901, a set of two eggs of the mourning dove (*Zenaidura macroura*) were taken from the huge nest of a caracara. The dove unquestionably had a comfortable home.

Mr. Edward Kasch of Caldwell county once found a nest of the Texan bob-white, which contained six eggs of a quail and three of the common chicken. The nest was deserted.

Another incident of curious nesting sites is that of a red-bellied woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*) that had built its nest about eighteen inches above the ground, the bottom of the cavity being level with the ground.—A. E. SCHUTZE.

**The First Occurrence of the Kingbird in Austin During the Breeding Season.**—On April 7, 1902, while walking along the outskirts of town, a strange bird flew up from the path and lit in a neighboring tree. I at once noted it down as a new arrival. I did not see this bird again until May 20, when it was in company with another of the same species. One was sitting on a telephone wire and the other was in a fork of a large live oak tree. When it flew away I saw that they had begun to construct a nest in the fork. Some string and a few sticks were evidence of same. Each day as I went by the tree (for it lay directly in my path to town), one of the birds was always there busily working. On June 1st I climbed up to the nest, which was at the extremity of a slender limb, and appeared to be complete. While I was near the nest both birds stayed in the vicinity and even fluttered around my head. While they were near me I had a good view of them and at once identified them as kingbirds. On June 8 I again visited the nest and it contained two eggs. Leaving these I returned on June 11 and still there were only the two eggs. Thinking that this was their complement I secured the nest, which was difficult to reach. It was built very firmly in the fork, and composed of twigs, string, cotton, bark, weeds and rags, lined with hair, cotton and feathers. The eggs were identically the same as a set which I obtained from Rhode Island with exception of the size which is slightly less.—H. KOFAHL, *Austin, Texas.*

**Pigmy Owl in Town.**—The capture of a pygmy owl (*Glaucidium gnoma*) in the streets of American Fork, Utah, a few days ago excited some interest but was not the first occasion of its kind. Two or three years ago I had one similarly caught (by a boy with his hands) and on dissection I found it literally gorged with English sparrows. I have never discovered a nest of these owls but the bird is not uncommon among us in winter and is attracted in town by the most natural thing in the world—its food.—H. C. JOHNSON, *American Fork, Utah.*